

**CERTIFICATION STANDARDS & PRACTICES ADVISORY COUNCIL
MEETING MINUTES
APRIL 11 & 12, 2002**

**MONTANA STATE UNIVERSITY NORTHERN
DONALDSON HALL COMMONS
HAVRE, MT 59501**

The meeting of the Certification Standards and Practices Advisory Council was called to order by Vice-Chair Gloria Curdy on Thursday and Friday, April 11 & 12, 2002 at 8:30 a.m. Members present: Gloria Curdy, Vice-Chair; Margaret Bowles; Charla Bunker; Mickey Kolis; Shelly Fortune and Scott McCulloch. Staff present: Pete Donovan, Administrative Officer and Tana Haxton, CSPAC Council Secretary. The following people signed the meeting roster: Kirk Miller, Board of Public Education Chair; Jim Meier, OPI; Bob Clemons, MSU; and Darlene Sellers, MSUN.

MOTION: Gloria Curdy suggested we approve minutes from the January 9, 2002 CSPAC meeting. This motion was seconded by Margaret Bowles and was unanimously approved.

Mr. Donovan spoke of recent correspondence issues, such as a conference call he and Margaret Bowles had participated in with Kelly Green. The call took place because of a letter received from Ms. Green, introducing herself in her new position within the National Commission on Teaching.

Mr. Donovan went on to explain how this letter states that there has been a restaffing effort taking place in the National Commission on Teaching. The NCT is working with updates on current issues and wanted to know what projects we were working on and where we were headed with them. The next meeting of the NCT is in August 2002, and they wanted to know what would be the most important topics to cover for our state.

Mr. Donovan gave a description of a letter he received from Henry Alan Flammond. Mr. Flammond is a student pursuing his teaching certificate, but has not been able to pass the PPST test. His letter was in favor to get rid of the PPST test completely.

Mr. Donovan let everyone on the council know that Charla Bunker and Gloria Curdy had submitted letters of application for their standing positions on the council. Several other applications had arrived for council positions also. The Board of Public Education will decide the position holders at the May 16 & 17, 2002 BPE meeting.

ITEM 1: CHAIR'S REPORT

Gloria Curdy explained how Calvin Spangler suffered the loss of a beloved friend. Pete Donovan stated that Mr. Spangler wanted to express his appreciation of Gloria for chairing the meeting in his absence. Consequently, there was no Chairperson's report at this time.

ITEM 2: BOARD OF PUBLIC EDUCATION REPORT – Steve Meloy

Steve Meloy was not able to attend because he had budget deadlines to finish for the Board of Public Education. On behalf of Mr. Meloy, Pete Donovan gave this report.

Mr. Donovan reported that at the March 2002 Board of Public Education (BPE) meeting, the Board adopted the temporary rule to get rid of the PPST Test. The rule will go into effect on May 17, 2002. This will satisfy the 30-day comment period needed and the 10-day waiting period needed also, as required by the Secretary of State.

Mickey Kolis stated that most universities in Montana have the PPST Test as an entrance requirement. He said that the universities would experience an “overlap” when students under the previous program requirements are suddenly placed in new program requirements. He says universities are not sure how to handle this issue.

Kirk Miller thanked the CSPAC Committee for all the work that was done on the temporary rule on reciprocity and on the PPST. He stated that the BPE was clear that the PPST was not an education issue, but a certification issue instead. Dr. Miller attended the Superintendent’s Conference recently, and spoke there about eliminating the temporary rule on reciprocity. This news was very well received by the superintendents.

Dr. Miller gave an overview of material that will be discussed at the BPE meeting in May. Regarding the 1994 Title Compliance issue, Dr. Miller questioned if Montana would be complying with the 1994 or 2001 laws. He went on to say that the Board is questioning that issue also. He also mentioned that by May, he should have information put together for the state budget.

ITEM 3: EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE REPORT – Calvin Spangler

Gloria Curdy announced that this report would be postponed until the next meeting, due to the absence of Calvin Spangler.

Scott McCulloch took this time to express his concern that we not schedule a 2-day meeting, if a 1-day meeting would be more appropriate and efficient.

ITEM 4: WESTERN STATES CERTIFICATION CONFERENCE – Gloria Curdy and Pete Donovan

Gloria Curdy began by stating that she and Pete Donovan attended this conference. She said that the meeting highlight was entitled “National Education Priorities.”

Ms. Curdy also stated that alternative certification standards in Idaho, Oregon and Washington are note-worthy and may be models for Montana to use in the future. Grants are being given in these states, at the present time, to new teachers. This type of program would help our shortage and keep our new teachers living in Montana.

Mr. Donovan stated that the level of concern that CSPAC has about the ESEA law is echoed nationally. Montana has a lot of challenges when it comes to hiring and keeping teachers in the state. The Office of Public Instruction has been interpreting this 1,200 page law for Montana.

Kirk Miller said that the Board is also concerned about this issue and it will be further discussed at the BPE meeting on May 16 & 17, 2002. Nancy Coopersmith will handle this presentation at the Board meeting.

ITEM 5: ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER'S REPORT

Mr. Donovan read a list of meetings he has attended since CSPAC met in January. He stated that Margaret Bowles was doing a great job of chairing the Ch. 57 committee meetings.

Mr. Donovan said that he had delivered the annual CSPAC report to the Board members at their meeting in March. The Board was pleased with the joint meeting and they suggested a continuance of these annual joint meetings.

Mr. Donovan visited with Robert Carson at Western Montana College, regarding the "Teach Montana's Educators Fair" coming up on May 3-4, 2002 in Bozeman. This fair will be held on campus in the Strand Union Building. The University of Montana's "Educator's Fair" will be on May 5-6, 2002 in Missoula, at the U of M campus Field house.

Mr. Donovan formally introduced Tana Haxton to the CSPSC Committee. Ms. Haxton is the new council secretary.

ITEM 6: MONTANA COMMISSION ON TEACHING – Margaret Bowles

Margaret Bowles reported that the Montana Commission on Teaching (MCT) has had one meeting since CSPAC last met. She said that the MCT has been creating a Power Point Presentation to demonstrate visualization assessment. They would like to reach key groups such as the Board of Public Education, the media, legislatures, teachers, curricular groups, education associations, CSPAC and Higher Ed with this presentation.

Ms. Bowles explained how she had met with Lynette Zuroff, Pete Donovan and Erik Burke to design a brochure that would enable people to understand education assessment, while tied into the Power Point Presentation. A sample of the preliminary brochure was passed around to CSPAC members to review and comment on.

Scott McCulloch suggested that Ms. Bowles cite the informational sources on the brochure for public knowledge.

Mickey Kolis suggested that the language of this brochure stay basic, so that non-educators could understand it. Charla Bunker emphasized the importance of this point also.

ITEM 7: UPDATE ON MONTANA TEACHER FORUM – Margaret Bowles, Gloria Curdy and Michael Kolis

Mickey Kolis started out by stating that the forum wants to work with the CSPAC committee more than they have in the past. A topic for the next teacher forum meeting is going to be a discussion on assessment issues. Mr. Kolis commented that we should have policy makers there, including legislatures.

Margaret Bowles spoke of events surrounding the forum, taking place in Butte this year. She is hoping that it will bring crowds, public officials and the media. She said that the CSPAC committee would play a major role in getting people there. Ms. Bowles also stated that all teachers would be validated for attending, by having a press release sent to their hometown newspaper. This gesture will recognize their hard work and encourage attendance at future forums.

Shelly Fortune agreed with the idea to send out a press release and added that this will be good for the smaller schools in Montana.

Ms. Bowles explained how the forum would not be making a multi-page brochure this year. It is too costly, so they will opt for a 1-page flyer that more people may be willing to read.

ITEM 8: PRE-PROFESSIONAL PREPARATION AND DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE/REPORT – Gloria Curdy

Pete Donovan briefly spoke of National Council for the Accreditation of Teacher Education (NCATE) reviews from past CSPAC meetings and of upcoming NCATE reviews. MSU Northern has their NCATE review coming up in the fall.

Mickey Kolis stated that he was under the impression that by 2002-2005, all colleges for teacher education will be NCATE certified or higher. Mr. Donovan agreed they would have to become NCATE certified or higher in that time frame and stated that it could become very costly for smaller institutions in Montana.

Mr. Kolis argued that Montana institutions need to meet the high standards of the NCATE, but the cost of this process has shifted from the state to the higher institutions now. He says you are expecting a huge sum of money to come from the universities for this update, without the help of a funding increase.

Gloria Curdy stated that this information is noteworthy and should be presented to the Council of Deans. She said it should be noted by the Board of Public Education also.

Ms. Curdy took this time to report that the University of Montana is meeting with Native American representatives and other educators from around the state to discuss bill 528 and decide on a professional development curriculum. They are

forming a course that will be required for all education students to be able to graduate. This will meet the standards of 528.

ITEM 9: PROFESSIONAL ETHICS COMMITTEE/REPORT – Scott McCulloch and Charla Bunker

Pete Donovan gave an example of a student from Missoula who is now eligible for a standard certificate, due to the cancellation of the PPST test requirement.

Mr. Donovan also stated that the Teacher Assessment Review Panel was designed for a specific purpose, and now that the PPST test is no longer valid, this committee is no longer necessary.

Scott McCulloch agreed that there is no need for this committee and sanctioned that this be on record and brought to Calvin Spangler at a later date.

ITEM 10: RESEARCH PROJECTS OVERSIGHT COMMITTEE/REPORT – Shelly Fortune and Calvin Spangler

Pete Donovan passed out a preliminary report from Don Freshour, regarding the implications of the PPST test cancellation, especially on Native American candidates. Dr. Freshour has asked that this preliminary report not be circulated outside of this group. The report will be on the agenda for discussion at the next meeting in July.

Mr. Donovan then passed out a follow-up e-mail report from Dori Neilson on “Who Will Teach Montana’s Children.” He commented that Ms. Neilson’s research is still in its early stages. We will also go over this report in detail at the next CSPAC meeting.

The members of the group discussed project funding for research related activities and expressed concern that this was not listed as an agenda item. Gloria Curdy stated this should be on the agenda in July and wanted this on record.

Mickey Kolis suggested that the group come up with specific parameters for proposing and writing policies for CSPAC. Ms. Curdy agreed and said these policies should meet the goals of the entire group.

MOTION: Scott McCulloch asked for Pete Donovan to find information items for future research projects on assessment. This motion was seconded by Margaret Bowles and was unanimously approved.

Mr. Donovan stated that he would ask the Board of Public Education for any specific suggestions on how CSPAC could be of assistance for research projects, such as E-learning. He would do this at the May BPE meeting and bring their suggestions back to CSPAC in July.

ITEM 11: CERTIFICATION AND ENDORSEMENT COMMITTEE/REPORT – Margaret Bowles

Margaret Bowles started by explaining the history of the Ch. 57 committee. She said that the committee started in September of 2000. The committee consists of key people from each group affiliated with education. They have a representative from SAM, 2 from MSBA, 2 from MEA-MFT, OPI certification and accreditation, a classroom teacher, a rural educator and a dean.

Ms. Bowles stated that changes occurring in the Ch. 57 document happen in two different ways. The first way is when document language is so out of date, that it needs to be completely rewritten. The second way is to add new language to the existing document. When a new draft is written, the council keeps revising it until approved by everyone. She stated that the council has a goal of completion by July.

Ms. Bowles next stated issues the Ch. 57 committee has been working on since the last CSPAC meeting. Changes are numbered and explained below:

1. The first issue was 5-12 and K-8 endorsements. Ms. Bowles stated this might help the majority of middle school teachers who are endorsed in elementary education.
2. The next issue was the elimination of the PPST Test. Ms. Bowles thanked all CSPAC members for their support for the new agreement.
3. Sue Dandliker helped the Ch. 57 committee become familiarized with the accreditation rules in Ch. 55.
4. Ms. Bowles also stated that Ms. Dandliker also helped to correlate Ch. 55 with Ch. 57.
5. The fifth item explained was the issue of internship for educators. This would help eliminate Montana's shortage of teachers, by allowing them to get special education endorsements and work in a specific field.
6. The committee is in the process of standardizing the language throughout the Ch. 57 document and harmonizing it with Ch. 55. Ms. Bowles commented that Ms. Dandliker has been very valuable to the council for helping with Ch. 55 issues.
7. Permissive specialized competency was briefly listed.
8. Committee legalities was the eighth item.
9. Ch. 57 reviewed the recency of credit language. Ms. Bowles stated there is still work to be done with this language.
10. Steve Gettel from MSBD had expressed urgency that sensory impaired children were not getting their needs met from teachers with only a special education endorsement. Teachers moving here from another state are not able to get certified to work with these children in Montana. Ms. Bowles stated that this is an over-site in the chapter and that Mr. Gettel is currently writing new language for this section.
11. The committee decided that the substitute teacher issue was not needed in Ch. 57. It is being placed in Ch. 55 instead. Ms. Bowles stated that this has been time consuming for the committee and also a big accomplishment for them. The Ch. 57 group had compromised through many drafts and much effort had gone into resolving this issue. There is

- now a 35-day period to find a qualified replacement for a classroom teacher. The committee wrote substitute teacher requirements into the document for the first time. One of those requirements is that substitutes must have background checks run prior to teaching.
12. Criminal background checks will now be systematic.
 13. Ms. Bowles stated that discussions have been taking place regarding class 3 certificates. Janet Erickson is now working on a grant for the committee and will report her findings at the next Ch. 57 meeting.
 14. Ch. 57 has approved the class 5 provisional draft. They are changing the wording from “provisional certification” to “alternative certification.”
 15. She reported that the previous reinstatement language has been shortened to read more easily and streamlined.
 16. At the next meeting, OPI will report on vocational certificate language issues.
 17. She stated that the committee has adopted the specialist certificate language changes.
 18. Lastly, Ms. Bowles referenced to the conference call she and Mr. Donovan participated in, regarding the temporary rule. Information on this call was handed out in the agenda packet.

Ms. Bowles suggested reading through the entire Ch. 57 document and started with teacher education preparation program requirements. She stated that changes had been made to this language to allow better access to out of state teachers. This would allow them to teach in Montana. Kirk Miller commented that he would be attending a meeting next week on behalf of the Board of Public Education that would be addressing this issue further.

Ms. Bowles said that one of the Ch. 57 committee’s priorities was to eliminate duplicate language throughout the entire document. She commented that council members had found many places where duplicate language existed.

Scott McCulloch questioned the Class 5 teaching provision for student teachers. He asked if student teachers could fail student teaching and still be able to get their teaching certificate. The council turned to Bob Clemons, MSU and Jim Meier, OPI, who commented extensively on this subject. Mr. McCulloch also brought up language differences in the wording of this document and a discussion followed.

Ms. Bowles reported to the council that Lance Melton, Doug Reisek and Erik Burke worked on the reinstatement language for Ch. 57. Their work included bringing scenarios to Ch. 57 meetings as examples of questions that could arise in future reinstatement discussions.

ITEM 12: PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT AND RENEWAL COMMITTEE REPORT – Michael Kolis

Mickey Kolis started out by stating that professional development is tied into tiered certification. He says that professional development should be addressed before tiered certification is. There needs to be policy written to address this issue in an open ended way.

Dr. Kolis commented that there are major questions that need answers before work effort is put into tiered certification. Those questions involve the subjects of money, resources and tighter partnerships with university systems.

ITEM 13: PLAN FOR FUTURE CONFERENCES

Pete Donovan spoke of the NASDTEC conference that will be June 14-17 in St. Louis, Missouri. Mr. Donovan said this would be a valuable conference on the national level. It would allow CSPAC members to converse with those across the country that work for teacher certification, as well as teacher education and accreditation issues. He stated that in past years, 2 council members and the administrative officer were sent to attend. He asked that the council consider this.

MOTION: Scott McCulloch asked that the council approve the expenditure of the funds necessary to send the administrative officer and up to two members of the council to the NASDEC conference. This motion was seconded by Charla Bunker and was unanimously approved.

Gloria Curdy asked CSPAC members to decide who would be attending the NASDTEC conference. Margaret Bowles said she would like to attend. Shelly Fortune stated she would also like to attend.

Ms. Curdy took this time to read aloud the resignation letter from Mickey Kolis to the council. The letter stated he would be leaving the council to accept a position in another state. He stated that this would be his last meeting and he enjoyed working with all of the council members. Ms. Curdy told Dr. Kolis that his work on the council was very valuable and he would be missed.

ITEM 14: FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

Scott McCulloch suggested that the Ch. 57 committee items should be the first priority at the next meeting. He also stated that he would like the council to continue with the work that Dr. Kolis had started on tiered certification and it's challenges.

Kirk Miller took this time to thank all CSPAC members for their hard work and professionalism on behalf of the Board of Public Education.

Meeting adjourned at 11:30am on April 12, 2002.